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Book Reviews.

Die alttestamentliche Spruchdichtung. Von WOLF WILHELM GRAFEN BAUDISSLIN.

This paper, which is the inaugural address delivered by Professor Baudissin on October 15, 1893, when entering on his duties as rector of the University of Marburg, deals mainly with the structure of the Book of Proverbs. The usual analysis into eight portions is adopted. The oldest parts, comprising those expressly ascribed to Solomon, are considered to be in the main pre-exilic. This opinion, which is less advanced than that of some recent critics, Kuenen for instance, is based principally on the following grounds: (1) The character of the references to kings which fits in better with the period of the house of David than with the time of the Diadochoi; (2) The allusion in 29:18 to prophetic vision as a fact of the present; (3) The point of view from which the observations are made, that of rewards and punishments in the earthly life; (4) The national prosperity which is implied, and the complete absence of the legal rigor of a later age, and of any tendency to speculation or mysticism. A few sayings may possibly have been composed by the great king whose traditional fame as a moral teacher occasioned the prefixing of his name to the whole. The remaining parts of the collection (excepting perhaps the praise of the model wife) cannot be put earlier than the Persian period. Chapter 30 and the first nine verses of chapter 31 may be of non-Israelitish origin. The readings are adopted which refer them to Massa, a region either in Arabia or the Hauran. The address includes also some valuable observations on the word "mashal," on the place of the mashal in Hebrew literature, and on the various forms of it which occur in this book, as well as some rather one-sided but striking remarks on the distinctive characteristics of the Hebrew mind and its part in the education of the world.

Bible Class Expositions. By ALEXANDER MACLAREN, D.D. Matthew, 2 vols.; Mark; Luke. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Price, \$1.00 per volume.

Many intelligent Bible-school workers have come to question the wisdom of employing any helps whatever in the preparation of the lessons. This is indicative of a very strong reaction from the practice which prevailed almost universally a few years ago, of depending entirely upon "lesson-helps," "quarterlies," and "notes;" studying what men had said about the lesson